

surface of said running board, said light tube directing a second portion of said light directly and uniformly over a ground surface below the vehicle.

15 16. The running board lighting assembly according to Claim 13 wherein an end of said at least one light tube is bent downward with respect to the vehicle for directing said second portion of said light directly and uniformly over [a] said ground surface below the vehicle.

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-20 remain pending in the present application. Claims 6 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 5, 7-9, 13 and 16 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 112

The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claim 6 depended on independent Claim 1 and Claim 17 depended on independent Claim 13. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 6 after Claim 6 was amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations to Claim 17 after Claim 17 was amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Thus, applicant believes that Claims 1 and 13 patentably distinguish over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 2-4 and 7 which ultimately depend from Claim 1 and Claims 14-15 which ultimately depend

from Claim 13 are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 8-12 ultimately depend from Claim 1. As stated above, Claim 1 has been amended and is now believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. This, applicant believes Claims 8-12 also patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.


In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant would submit that all Claims are in condition for allowance and thus Applicant request that the Examiner pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present amendment he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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